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## CONFERENCE OF COUNTY ATTORNEYS OF KANSAS

by the juries, nor substituted for fines, nor applied to minors; that it should be restricted to persons who have not been convicted before for any ordinary misdemeanor. He urges also that the benefits of the conditional release be not given in addition to the plea of "mitigating circumstances" and exemption of the detention awaiting trial from the term of punishment.

C. R. H.

**Juvenile Court Legislation.**—By virtue of an act approved by the Governor of Vermont on January 23rd, that state has added to the growing number having chancery instead of criminal juvenile courts. The new law, which vests jurisdiction in children's cases in the probate courts, follows the main lines of the original Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1899.

New York State can now boast of two counties instead of one having a similar law. The Monroe County Juvenile Court Act of 1910 has been adapted to the neighboring county of Ontario through the enactment of chapters 269 and 270 of the Laws of 1913, giving the county court of Ontario County exclusive jurisdiction over all cases of delinquent and dependent children in that county, and concurrent jurisdiction over cases of offenses against children. The board of supervisors have made funds available for the employment of a probation officer, and the State Civil Service Commission is soon to hold an examination.

A bill introduced into this year's session in the New York State Assembly by its majority leader, Mr. Aaron J. Levy, contemplated the abolition of the four children's courts in New York City and the vesting of their powers and duties in a "children's bureau" of the City Board of Education. The measure excited some little furor at first, but it was soon realized that the measure contained insurmountable difficulties and had no likelihood of receiving serious consideration at the hands of the legislators. The charge was made, and evidently on good grounds, that the bill was drafted primarily in the interests of a certain school principal who had aspirations to become the chief justice of the proposed new "children's bureau," as the new court would have been called. The principal objects served by the bill were to focus attention on the fact that the New York Children's Courts have within the last year or two made very substantial progress, and now command a much greater degree of public confidence than ever before.

According to the March number of "Seeking and Saving," published in London, the Spanish Minister of Justice has recently introduced in the Senate a measure for the appointment of a special judge and court for dealing with juvenile delinquents. It is proposed that the judge shall be allowed wide discretion in administering the law, particularly in determining whether the children possess an adequate knowledge of right and wrong. Children lacking normal powers of moral discernment may be sent to charitable institutions. It is also provided that delinquents under 15 years of age may be committed to remand homes.

A. W. T.

**Annual Conference of County Attorneys of Kansas.**—The annual conference of county attorneys of the State of Kansas held Thursday, April 3, 1913, furnishes food for thought. While efforts are being made to secure the improvement of the criminal procedure, why should there not be an

## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION IN KANSAS

intelligent effort made to secure increased efficiency in the "human agencies" employed in the arrest, trial and punishment of offenders among them, the prosecutor? Many prosecuting attorneys come to the office without much, if any, experience in criminal prosecution. Many of them are fresh from law school, where, though they study the law of crimes, but little attention is paid to the practical side of the prosecutor's duties. At present experience, alone, teaches the representative of the state the many duties of his office. So long as these are neglected in the law schools, an annual conference of the men engaged in the prosecution of offenders is of great importance. In such a meeting, much can be learned from the interchange of experiences and opinions. The Kansas conference is a voluntary association called each year by the Attorney General of the state. The sessions are devoted to the consideration of the various duties of the office of county attorney and not solely to that of prosecutions. A high conception of the position can thus be taught those who are newly elected, and greater efficiency will undoubtedly follow. It is hoped that similar associations will be formed in the various states. In Kansas, sixty-three of the county attorneys attended the last meeting.

W. E. H.

**Summary of Recent Legislation in Kansas in Respect to Criminal Law and Kindred Matters.**—I have now gone over the 300 and odd acts of the legislature of 1913 in Kansas and abstract the following:

The conviction of an attorney of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude obliges the Supreme Court to disbar him, but if the conviction be reversed or the offender pardoned, the said Court *may* reinstate him as attorney. Chap. 64, laws 1913. The rest of the act provides an entirely new procedure for disbarment, committing the entire matter primarily to the state board of law examiners, with decision in the Supreme Court, and requiring the attorney general to prosecute.

The great extension of public utilities has caused police jurisdiction in cities of 2nd and 3rd classes to be "extended over all waterworks, sewer systems, pipe, power, light, telephone lines and ways of access thereto, and all the public utilities or parts thereof, and all property rights used in connection therewith, owned, controlled or managed by such cities within five miles of the city limits; and all city ordinances, past and present, are extended over such utilities and property," etc. Chap. 127, laws 1913. In Kansas all closely aggregated settlements are "cities" either of 1st, 2nd or 3rd class, or are unorganized and without local government.

Courts are empowered to parole persons before or after sentence for any felony of which convicted, except murder, forcible rape, arson or robbery, but not after such person has been delivered to the penitentiary or reformatory, or industrial schools for either boys or girls. This act simply removes the age limit which has stood in the law since 1907 when the first act was passed, but set 21 years as the maximum age limit. Now the age of the convict or accused is not an absolute bar to immediate parole. This law and the law with reference to "white slavery" (Ch. 179) and the divorce proctor law (Ch. 234) are perhaps the most important measures that were enacted in 1913 in Kansas, in relation to criminal law or the prosecuting officers. The parole law amendment as to age is in Ch. 172.